


S. THOMAS
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH.

1903.

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To the

Chairman and Members of the . .

S. Thomas Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

IT is my privilege to present to you the Seventh Annual Report on the Health and Sanitation of your District. With regard to the former branch I am pleased to state that it is generally satisfactory, and also that the General Sanitation has also made good progress during the year.

The District covers 109,604 acres. with a population at the Census of 1901 of 25,994. This includes 1,163 inmates of the Devon County Asylum and 311 of the Starcross Idiot Asylum. These are not included in the figures used for the estimation of the Vital Statistics, and allowing that the population is still decreasing at the rate of the last decennial period, the population is taken at 24,300 at the middle of the year 1903.

As in previous years I have subdivided the whole area into 5 subdistricts, four being grouped around the rivers which pass through the district, while Topsham is taken by itself. The divisions are very natural ones, as the geological formations are nearly co-terminous with each. The Clyst is mainly composed of the lower marls and lower sandstones of the Permian series, being separated from the Clyst by the pebble beds of Woodbury Common; the Teign for the most part of carboniferous shales, which run to a small extent into the North of the Exe district, while to the South it is separated from the latter by the greensand of the Haldon Hills. The town of Topsham is on the lower sandstone, the rural portion of the parish being on alluvial soil.

WEATHER.

It is hardly necessary to mention that the year 1903 holds the unenviable record for rainfall. The total rainfall registered at the Devon and Exeter Institution was 38·04 inches, being 10·16 higher than in the previous year, and 8·17 higher than the average for the last ten years in some parts of the County, in the neighbourhood over 40 inches were registered. November was the driest with 1·66 inches, October being the wettest with 6·29.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of deaths registered as occurring in the district was 441. Of these 125 were in the various Public Institutions in the district, 11 of which were of "residents." To these must be added 17 which occurred in the Union Workhouse and 11 in the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. This gives a nett total of 355, and a Death-rate of 14·6 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This, although a rise of 1·9 on the record rate of 1902, is quite satisfactory, being 8·7 less than the average of the previous six years.

The number of births is 562; 292 being males and 270 females. The rate per 1,000 is 23·1, being slightly under the average.

The number of deaths under one year was 48, the same number as in 1902, but the rate per 1000 births, being calculated on an increased birth-rate, is 85. This is a very satisfactory figure, being the lowest recorded and 21 less than the average.

The following table gives the figures for the whole and the various subdistricts with the corrected averages for the last six years :—

	Area.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality.	Zymotic D. Rate.	Phthisis D. Rate.
General ...	109,640	24,300	23·1	14·6	85	·82	1·11
Average (1897-1902) }		24,735	23·5	15·3	106	·91	·91
Clyst ...	33,870	7,606	23·5	14·5	92	1·84	·65
Average ...		7,652	24·9	15·1	103	·69	1·02
Exe ...	34,364	8,087	20·8	12·7	103	·37	1·85
Average ...		8,191	21·2	13·2	97	·69	·67
Otter ...	13,074	2,353	24·7	18·2	111	·85	1·69
Average ...		2,523	21·9	17·4	110	·85	1·21
Teign ...	30,396	3,474	26·0	11·8	44	·28	·28
Average ...		3,555	27·0	17·2	107	1·35	·54
Topsham ...	3,379	2,780	21·2	20·1	118	·00	·71
Average ...		2,788	22·6	17·1	121	·88	1·55
Rural England & Wales			27·3	14·8	118	1·08	

As regards the birth-rates, the two districts that depart much from the averages are the Exe, which is 2·4 below, and the Otter, which is 2·8 above. The Teign still approaches its high average. The latter district has the best figures in every respect.

This is the second year that the Teign has had a very low death-rate, that of last year being practically equal to the present one. Its high average is due to the figures for all the previous years being very excessive. The Exe figure is very satisfactory, Topsham and the Otter are bad, especially the former. Both these districts have a large number of senile deaths, the age distribution in each case being probably unfavourable to a low death-rate.

The Infantile mortality in the Otter district is most satisfactory and very low. Topsham is again the highest in this respect, as it has been for five out of the seven years for which I have had the figures. This is in part due to the cases of premature birth, of which this place gets more than its share.

Disease Incidents.

ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

Although the death-rate from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases show a considerable rise on the phenomenally low rate of 1902, it is satisfactory in being the next lowest recorded. Half the deaths are due to Measles, there being three deaths from this cause at Broadclyst, two at each of Whimble and Sowton, and one each at Aylesbeare and Pinhoe. There were three deaths from Scarlet Fever, two being at Honiton Clyst, and one at Newton Poppleford. There were two deaths from Whooping Cough at Pinhoe, one of Enteric Fever at Alphington and one from Diphtheria at Ashton. The four deaths from Diarrhœa include two infants, one of each at Alphington and Broadclyst, and two adults, one each at Exminster and Otterton. The Clyst district has by far the worst Zymotic-rate, owing to the deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever, with one exception, occurring within its borders. All the other districts are much below the average. For the third time in succession Topsham has no death from this class of disease, and the fourth time in seven years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

There has been a most satisfactory fall in the number of notifications received, the total number being 81, against 114 in 1902. It is only two more than the previous lowest record, 79, which was the figure for 1900. More than half the cases occurred in the Clyst district, the rate per 1,000 being 5·3. This is lower than last year by 0·8. The rate in the Otter is higher than this, being 6·3, here there were 114 cases. The rates for the other districts are very satisfactory, Topsham having 2·5, the Exe 1·7, is very low for a large district, and 1·1 for the Teign. The latter is the lowest recorded for the district, and equal to the lowest yet recorded in any.

SMALLPOX.

No cases occurred in the district. Information was received that two men had been discharged at Gosport from a ship on which a case of Smallpox had occurred. These were visited and found to be in good health. Also of a case who had been in the same building with a case at Bath. Here also I made enquiries and visited the person, and found her to be in good health.

DIPHTHERIA.

Four cases were notified, with one fatality at Ashton. The remainder were single cases at Otterton, Broadclyst and Topsham. This latter was a secondary case in a house where a case had occurred in December, 1902. Only once has a less number of cases occurred than in this one.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were eight cases, the smallest number yet recorded. These were distributed as follows:—Two at Kenn, two at Woodbury, and one each at Upton Pyne, Topsham, Doddiscombsleigh and Bridford.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases was 59, which is a reduction of 26 from the excessive figure of last year. In spite of the reduction, the figure is too large, the average for the previous six years being 39.

By far the greater number of cases occurred in the Clyst district, namely 35, or more than half the number, the attack rate being 4·5 per 1,000.

At the end of the previous year a small outbreak had occurred at Honiton Clyst, and this continued into this year, there being three cases in two houses; two of these were fatal. Then four cases occurred in one house at Woodbury Salterton. The first case attacked had just

returned from a visit at a house at Pinhoe where a case had arisen as long ago as October, 1902. I think that this must be dismissed as a coincidence only. No more cases were notified until the end of April, when a case was reported at Broadclyst. In early June three cases occurred in two houses at Clysthydon, followed at the end of the month by another. In July two more houses were infected, and in one where there was ample accommodation, and the case was not removed to the Sanatorium a secondary case occurred. In the month of July also Pinhoe was affected, three cases occurring in one house. The first case in this family occurred when they were all on a visit at Topsham, and on returning home the children became affected in succession, the last being an infant of a few months old. This case was not removed to the Sanatorium, and the wife of the next door neighbour used to come in and help about the house, as a result she became ill, and her daughter also took the infection from her. A single case arose at Aylesbeare in August.

The outbreak at Whimble was the most extensive of the year, there being fourteen cases.

The parish of Whimble, where this outbreak occurred, is a small one, with a population of 680 at the last census. It is almost entirely agricultural, there being only a cider factory and a butter factory in the village, besides the usual collection of cottages and small shops.

There have been fourteen cases altogether, all being in school children except one. The first four were in three houses on the 28th August of this year. I inspected the scholars, but found nothing at all suspicious, except that several were suffering from colds, with sore throats, their faces being somewhat swollen. One child had a mucous discharge from the nose, which I examined, but found nothing resembling the bacillus of diphtheria. The only suspicious connection with cases anywhere else was in one house, where a teacher from the school at Clysthydon, some four miles off, had stopped for a few days. Three of the four cases were removed to the Sanatorium, the bedding disinfected by steam, the rooms fumigated with formic aldehyde, the schools closed for the remainder of that week, and also fumigated. Then a fortnight later two more cases occurred on the same day, and both were removed and the premises treated as before. Pressure was soon after put upon parents by the attendance officer, as they would not send their children for fear of infection. The result was that two of those impressed to school were promptly infected, on Oct. 1st and 6th, the former of the two being in the same house as case No. 4, one of the first ones. This was not a return case, as the first one was not yet discharged. Another case occurred on Oct. 10th in house No. 4. The three last mentioned were removed also. I again examined the scholars; found, as before, nothing suspicious, and closed the schools for three weeks and had them again fumigated. Then we had peace

for a month, when a fresh house was invaded, house No. 8. A further case appeared eleven days later, on Nov. 23rd, this time not a scholar, but a boy aged sixteen, in house No. 4, the third that had occurred there. The first case had been home nearly five weeks, while the second was not yet discharged, so it does not appear to have been a return case. A week later a further case occurred in house No. 2, where there had been two initial cases. Here these had been home about a month, and a second case occurred in house No. 6, the primary case still being in the hospital. Finally the last and fourteenth case up to the present occurred in a fresh house on 13th December.

Summing up, there has been an epidemic lasting over three months where hospital isolation has been used most freely, ten out of the twelve cases being so treated, and the methods of disinfection as complete as I know how to make them; but in spite of intervals between the cases, some of a month in duration, the outbreak does not seem to have been amenable to control at all.

I should have stated that seven cases belonged to the girls' school, four to the infants', and one only to the boys'. The school is a mixed one, with a separate class-room for the infants.

The last case in this district was at Rockbeare in December, and may have some connection with the outbreak at Whimble.

Although the Clyst has the largest number of cases the Otter has the highest percentage of cases, there being fourteen, giving a rate of 5.5. The first case occurred at Newton Poppleford in January, and was allowed to remain at home, with the result that two cases soon occurred in the other children. There were no further cases until April, when two were reported in one house, being attacked simultaneously. One of these proved fatal, the other was removed, and there was no spread although there were several children in the house. Other single cases occurred in May, June and August, two being removed and there was no further spread. A single case occurred at Colaton Raleigh in January, and there were no more in that village until December, when a case was reported. On the case being visited it was found that a child in the cottage next door had undoubtedly recently been attacked, but no Medical advice had been procured. After a few days' illness he was allowed out and went to school at Newton Poppleford. By good fortune no cases contracted the disease from him. It has been noticed before that frequently no spread arises where it would be expected, but in others, as at Whimble, it is most difficult to find the cause for an outbreak. The parent of this child was prosecuted and a conviction obtained. There were three cases in one house at Otterton. Here the first case had been overlooked and the others arose at intervals of about ten days between each.

The number of cases in the Exe district was only 8, which is a very satisfactory figure. Of these, two were at Lympstone in one house, two at Starcross in April and October, three at Kenton, two being in one house. The first of these was apparently a return case, another child in the house having been discharged from the Tiverton Isolation Hospital fourteen days previously. There was also a single case at Kenn.

There were no cases at all in the Teign district.

The two Topsham cases were both at Countess Weir, one being the last previously mentioned under the account of the cases at Pinhoe, the other case being in a house close to Exeter.

Of the 59 cases, no less than 43 occurred in parishes which are on the extreme boundaries of the district, the centre being remarkably free. It is also seen from the above account with what rapidity the disease spreads in houses where there are other children, and also the general success which the policy of removing cases from houses where there are other children.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The most satisfactory feature of the year is the still further reduction of the number of cases of Enteric Fever. There were ten cases reported, the lowest number recorded, while of these one turned out to be Measles, another Influenza, one at least of the others is rather doubtful, and two of the three Topsham cases were contracted out of the district, one at Devonport and the other at Exmouth.

There were three cases reported at Alphington, three at Topsham, the remaining one a boy who worked in Exeter, living at Countess Weir, and which might not have been contracted in the district, and single cases at Farringdon, Clysthydon, Woodbury and Christow. The latter is most remarkable, as it is the sixth case that has occurred in this particular cottage. There was one in 1898, two in 1899, two in 1901, and now the present case. The Sanitation and Water Supply of the cottage are all that can be desired, and a constant recurrence of the cases is a mystery. It is known that the *Bacillus* of Enteric Fever will remain alive for a very long time in polluted soils, but this house is built almost on the solid rock. It is possible that the infection may have remained in the bedding, and this was thoroughly disinfected on this occasion.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

There were no notifications of this disease.

Non-Notifiable Zymotic Diseases.

MEASLES.

This was prevalent to a considerable degree in the early part of the year, especially in the Clyst district. Outbreaks occurred at Broadclyst, Farringdon, S. Mary Clyst, and Poltimore, in all of which school closure was necessary, as also at Rewe in the Exe district, while there were smaller outbreaks at Whimble and Sowton. A case at Exminster was reported by the School Master.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This does not seem to have been prevalent, the only outbreak that came under my notice being at Pinhoe, where there were two deaths.

DIARRHŒA.

The number of fatalities is an increase on last year. Two of the deaths were in infants, possibly the others, in adults, should not be included under this heading.

Other Specific Diseases.

INFLUENZA.

The deaths from this cause number eight, a rise of one on last year. Seven of them were in old people, and the disease was not by any means prevalent in the district.

PHTHISIS.

The number of deaths from this cause is the worst feature of the year's Statistics, being five more than last year, which was also the average figure. The incidence falls very heavily on the Exe district, there being no less than fifteen fatalities, a number equal to the figure for the whole district in 1899. There were no less than five deaths in Starcross from this cause, and one at Kenton, three at Lymptone, two at Alphington and Exminster and one at Kenn. This mortality is nearly three times the average for this district. The Otter is also above the average, with four deaths, two at Otterton, and one each at Colaton Raleigh and Newton Poppleford. The other districts are well under their respective averages, the Clyst having four deaths, two at Whimble, and one each at Broadclyst and Clyst S. George, the Teign with only one death, that at Bridford, while Topsham has two fatalities.

I have, in all my previous reports, laid stress on the necessity of energetically combating the prevalence of this disease, which has a mortality, mostly in young people, greater than all the chief Zymotic Diseases put together. A tremendous outcry would be made if any one of these had a death-rate equal to that produced by Phthisis, obviously the first requisite for the necessary precautions to be taken is that of compulsory notification, so that the whereabouts of every case shall be known. There would then be no necessity for the inquisitorial procedure that is dreaded by some, but what ought to be done, should be to inform the sufferer that unless he adopts simple precautions he is a source of potential danger to the rest of the community, and that breach of such precautions should render him liable to punishment, the same as if he was suffering from any other infectious disease. Such precautions deal entirely with the disposal of the sputum, which should be received into a vessel of disinfectant, or into paper handkerchiefs, which should be burnt. In the late stages of the disease also, when the intestines may be affected, the evacuations should be disinfected. If a person affected with Phthisis should spit in any public place, he should be liable to a penalty. It is through this that the spread of the disease is mainly brought about. The expectoration becomes dried, blown about as dust, and then inhaled. Persons in good health are able to dispose of the microbe, but in those who are in bad health, live in overcrowded or otherwise unhealthy conditions or have a predisposition to the disease, an attack of Phthisis results. Other ways of contracting the disease, especially in the intestinal forms, are from the consumption of tuberculous milk or flesh.

The other forms of Tubercular disease have also increased in the past year, there being ten deaths. Of these, four were from General Tuberculosis, four from Intestinal affection, and two from Tubercular disease of the hip joint. The number from Intestinal causes are the largest yet recorded.

After death the premises should be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. This is all that can be done in this district.

CANCER.

There is an increase in the number of deaths from this cause, there being 24 as against 20 last year. The Exe has the largest number.

OTHER DISEASES.

There has been an increase in the number of deaths from Bronchitis, affecting both the infants and the aged, a slight decrease in Pneumonia, affecting the infants, an increase in the cases of premature birth; a great decrease in the infants dying from causes connected with birth, Heart Disease below the average, from violence the same, as also those from old age, and a decrease in deaths from Convulsions and Kidney Diseases.

Sanitary Administration.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

SANATORIUM.

Under the arrangement with the Exeter City Council 43 cases were removed on account of there not being the "proper lodging and accommodation" for them at home. This, excluding Erysipelas, represents 52 per cent. of the total, as against 75 cases, or a rate of 72 per cent. last year. There has been no difficulty at all during the year in getting the cases removed, and as in previous years, I am glad to record the courtesy and prompt attention of the City Officials. I have previously in this report pointed out the undoubted use the prompt isolation of the cases as they occur has undoubtedly been in limiting the number of cases.

DISINFECTION.

It is a matter for congratulation that the methods for disinfection in use cannot be improved upon, namely Formic Aldehyde for fumigation and steam for bedding, etc. In some of the cottages where the rooms are few, and the infected persons have been in all of them probably, it is difficult to obtain thorough fumigation, and also in some where the upper rooms have no doors. Some of the houses at Whimble where secondary cases occurred were of this character, and it is certainly possible that some of these arose from this cause, instead of re-infection from the undiscovered cause of the outbreak. Other than these no cases occurred in the year which may be put down to inefficient disinfection.

The disinfecting is now done by the Assistant Inspector of Nuisances, who has carried out this duty in a most thorough and painstaking manner.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

This varies considerably in the different parts of the district. As the leasehold cottages fall in, they are dealt with, it being felt unfair to put tenants to the expense of doing up the cottages when they lose their interest in them in a short time.

One house was reported as unfit for human habitation. The tenant of the house at Newton Poppleford, who was mentioned in last year's report as declining to leave although a closing order had been obtained and in addition she had been fined for refusing to comply with it, left the house this year. The clause in the Amending Act of last Session, which obviates the preliminary notice in cases where there is

no possibility of houses being placed in habitable repair, will be of service in lessening the delay which has heretofore occurred in such cases.

No overcrowdings were reported during the year. Many houses that were dirty or otherwise a nuisance have been dealt with.

No new Parishes have availed themselves of the Building Bye-laws. Those in which they are in force are Pinhoe, Alphington, Broadclyst and Topsham. Plans for 10 new buildings were passed in the year.

Nothing that has occurred has persuaded me to modify my previously expressed opinion that it would be to the advantage of the whole district if the new modified Bye-laws applicable to Rural Districts were enforced. These only require the absolute essentials of sanitary construction.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The largest work for the year is the extension of the Otterton Sewer, which is now carried up to the head of the village. This means the abolition of a very old-standing nuisance—the very foul state of the brook.

Another old-standing cause of complaint has also been removed by the construction of the Sewer and Outfall Works at Hele Station. This should prove totally satisfactory. I was also concerned in the renewal at S. Mary's Clyst. By this means effectual drainage of the lower part of the village is secured. Other renewals are mentioned in the report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Much complaint has been received during the year as to nuisance arising from the Septic Tank Works at Exminster, which certainly has been justifiable. As far as the purification of the sewerage is concerned all is satisfactory, a very satisfactory and clear effluent being obtained, with no secondary decomposition. But at times, more especially on damp days with little or no wind blowing, a most offensive smell has arisen. In the end of the year, however, owing to slight alterations by the Patentees, this has not been so marked, and it is to be hoped that the matter is now satisfactory.

The state of affairs at Woodbury, Ide and Whimble, where practically the whole of the sewage of the respective villages pass into the brook which passes through them, remains as before. Owing to the excessive rainfall in this year no nuisance has arisen, but such is inevitable if a dry season should occur.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

The general policy of previous years is still being continued as it is undoubtedly the most suitable for the district. Isolated water closets are not encouraged, as unless there is a sufficient sewer for them to drain into, they are only productive of nuisance. Pail closets or Poore's dry privy are enforced, the old foul and insufficient privy middens being gradually done away with.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

No place has been added to the short list of those where systematic scavenging is in force. These are only two, Topsham and Lymptone. Here the collection is bi-weekly, and is satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

The sources of public supply in those places that have them are satisfactory. By far the greater part of the district is supplied with wells.

No new place has been supplied with a public supply during the year, but matters are in progress with regard to the provision of a supply at Otterton. As previously reported, a case of Diphtheria occurred in this village in the early part of the year. An analysis of the water supply of the house was done at the instance of the owner, and the well found to be very badly polluted. This only bore out what I had mentioned in previous reports, that the majority of the wells were very badly situated and probably a number of them were polluted. On this being brought to the notice of the Council I was instructed to make a complete report of the water supply of the village. I found that one hundred cottages were supplied by five public draw wells, varying in depth from quite a shallow well to one about forty-five feet deep. There were also sixteen private wells, supplying twenty-six cottages, and eleven of these were in yards, which mostly contained a large quantity of manure. The five public wells were analysed, with the result that three of them, supplying fifty-nine cottages were found badly polluted. At the same time I inspected a gathering ground at Peak Hill, which was suggested as a possible source of a supply by gravitation. The site consists of a valley, one side of which is waste land, and the other being arable. When this is laid down to grass, which can be done, it ought to provide an admirable gathering ground from whence a supply, amply sufficient in quantity and quality, should be available for the village. Samples have been taken from the main stream issuing from it on two occasions, and on each found to be quite suitable for all domestic purposes, after settling, as after heavy rain it shows considerable turbidity. Application has been made to the Local Government Board for a loan, but the enquiry has not yet been held.

Of the other analyses shown in the appendix that from Clysthydon is from some cottages where a case of Enteric Fever had occurred this year, as also in 1902. The first analysis showed much pollution, but after drainage alterations, and a rest of some months, the result was as shown in the second analysis, which was quite satisfactory.

The only other sample was from Aylesbeare, which was analysed in consequence of a complaint. This was seen to be unfounded, the water being satisfactory.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none of these as defined by the statute. As the railway works which have been going on in the district have now been completed, the overcrowdings which were suspected to occur by reason of tenants taking in many lodgers, but which were difficult of proof, have now disappeared.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

This is the first year's experience under the Bye-laws, and as a result of the increased powers, and frequent inspection, there is a considerable improvement in the way in which these places have been kept. Owing to the construction of some of these it is impossible to keep them entirely as one would wish, but things are certainly better. No prosecution has been necessary.

No new license has been applied for.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

A considerable addition has been made to the register. The dairies are mostly exceedingly well kept. The cowsheds are mostly for milking purposes only, and as such are not required to be kept in such a manner as would be necessary if they were required for stalling the cows all day.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

I am able to report that the Act of 1901 is now satisfactorily performed in the district. In last year's report I had to state that it was impossible to carry it out owing to the lack of sufficient staff to do so. The appointment of a second Inspector of Nuisances has remedied this.

The chief points to be reported upon are scheduled as follows :—

1. Sanitary condition of Workshops and workplaces including :

(a) Cleanliness, air-space and ventilation.

No instances have been brought to notice in which these are otherwise than satisfactory.

(b) Drainage of floors on which wet processes are carried on.

There are none such in this district.

(c) Provisions of suitable sanitary conveniences.

These were found to be satisfactory except in the instance of a laundry at Broadclyst. The matter here may have been remedied.

2. Special sanitary regulations for bakehouses.

There are no underground bakehouses in this district. New floors have been provided in three instances, sand and cement floors being required instead of pebble pitched ones, as in the latter case it was impossible to keep them in any way clean or dry. The others required lime-washing.

3. Home work.

Apparently this is not performed in this district under such conditions as is included in the Act.

4. Keeping lists of outworkers.

Following on the last paragraph, it follows that there is no list of outworkers.

5. Keeping a register of workshops.

In last year's report it was mentioned that in addition to the bakehouses there were only twelve on the register. Now there is a total of 105, made up as follows :—Bakehouses 49, Builders 5, Factories 8, Wheelwrights 8, Tailors 10, Plumber 1, Bootmakers 2, Dressmakers 16, Cooper 1,

Smiths 7 and Laundries 3. It should be stated in explanation that only those places are required to be registered where persons are employed other than the actual occupiers of the premises.

Also under the terms of the Act, thirteen persons were reported to the District Inspector of Factories for employing women or young persons without an abstract of the Factories Act being posted up.

NUISANCES.

As previously mentioned an Assistant Inspector of Nuisances has been appointed. At the time that such appointment was discussed it was hoped that half his salary would have been repaid by the Local Government Board. But as the work of removing patients to the Sanatorium, and disinfecting premises and clothes generally was to be performed by such an Officer, as well as the principal part of the work under the Factories Act, the Local Government Board refused the moiety, but I am very glad to state that this drawback did not prevent his being appointed. The official reason given for the refusal was that such work as was to be delimited to him was not part of the statutory duties of an Inspector, under his instructions. But these duties are among the most important ones of Sanitary Authority, and ones which the Local Government Board are most persistent in requiring to be performed by them. This being so, one would have thought that all encouragement would have been given to the second Officer, as such a one was obviously necessary for the due performance of the work.

Owing to his appointment the number of outstanding notices for the abatement of nuisances at the end of the year was but a small number, and these being mainly cases that were reported at the end of the year.

A summary of the work of the Inspectors is given as an Appendix. Over one thousand more inspections have been made this year than last, but the number of notices issued has decreased.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Both the Infectious Disease Prevention Act, and the Public Health Amendment Act, as far as it relates to Rural Districts, are in force.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

No use is made of this Act.

INSPECTIONS.

I have made a total of 268 inspections during the year. In addition to the matters already mentioned in the report, there were insufficient traps or drains in 22, insufficient privies or closets in 26, houses damp from insufficient roofs or sprouting 7, offensive heap of scavenge manure, from Exeter, 1, and one case of pigs a nuisance.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

MARK FARRANT, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health, and of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health ; Member of the Sanitary Institute.

RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSES.

Appearance.	Total Solids.	Chlorine.	Free Ammonia.	Fixed Ammonia.	Nitrogen as Nitrates.	Oxygen absorbed.
Clysthydon Clear	36	9.2	.004	.012	.98	.21
„ (after six months)		3.6	.001	.003	.48	.1
Ottertton						
No. I. Clear	26	5.6	.000	.003	.05	.16
No. II. „	92	17.6	.011	.013	4.32	.14
No. III. „	68	8.2	.01	.008	3.3	.1
No. IV. „	72	8.4	.014	.009	1.23	.1
No. V. „	36	5.0	.008	.002	.55	.1
Peak Hill, turbid	22	3.6	.000	.003	.06	.21
„ „	24	3.6	.001	.002	.12	.11
Aylesbeare, Clear		2.4	.002	.002	.74	.14

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.—1903.

No. of Complaints	...	...	...	...	49
„ Inspections	...	..	...	...	1535
„ Re-Inspections	...	...	..	...	893
„ Notices	...	...	...	...	153
„ Houses (or parts of) limewashed			...	...	69
„ Drains (new)	...	..	...	...	73
„ „ repaired	...	...	...	...	49
„ „ ventilated	...	...	...		49
„ Water Closets (new)		...	...		18
„ „ „ supplied with water			...	...	16
„ „ „ and Privies repaired			..		31
„ Earth Closets (new)		...	..	...	7
„ Privies converted into Pail Closets			...	...	11
„ Wells protected	...	...	...	...	9
„ Water Certificates granted	...		...	...	4
„ Houses provided by public supply			...	...	7
„ „ condemned, unfit for habitation				...	1
„ „ disinfected		...	...	...	33
„ Other Nuisance abated		...	...	...	26
„ Factories, Workshops, Workplaces registered and inspected	...	...	...	...	105
„ Notices under Factory Act, 1901			...	...	6
„ Slaughter Houses registered and inspected				...	37
„ Dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	132
„ Proceedings taken and Orders obtained				...	2

During the year ended the 31st of December, 1903, there has been a considerable amount of public work done, the most important being the completion of the extension of the Otterton Sewer to the higher end of the Village, thus disconnecting the whole of the village drainage from the Brook and abating a long-standing nuisance. Next in

importance, the Hele Station Sewer and Outfall Works (the disposal being by Stoddard's Continuous Filter) has been completed, up to the present the work is proceeding satisfactorily; other completed works are the Alphington and Brampford Speke Sewer extensions, Broadclyst (main sewer) and Lower Budleigh renewals, Sewers at Clyst St. Mary, Woodbury, Whimble and Aylesbeare, have also been reconstructed. Excepting the Topsham (Monmouth Street) Sewer, which had become choked and has since been cleansed and improved, the whole of the systems in the District are working well. The water supplies have been inspected and found satisfactory.

E. H. QUICK, M.S.I., I.O.N.



TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1903 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.
S. THOMAS RURAL DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths in Public Institu- tions.	Deaths of non- residents registered in public institutions in the district.	Deaths of residents registered in public institutions beyond the district.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	One Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births regist'ed.	Number.	Rate.*					
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1897	26,890	651	24.2	71	105	430	15.9	95	97	22	335	13.2
1898	26,940	558	20.7	66	118	425	15.7	58	61	27	391	14.5
1899	26,900	586	21.7	70	119	487	18.1	94	94	18	411	15.2
1900	26,910	560	22.2	53	98	485	18.0	104	105	15	395	14.2
1901	24,520	560	23.7	64	110	500	20.3	114	103	25	421	17.2
1902	24,410	557	22.8	48	86	406	16.6	130	124	30	312	12.7
Corrected Averages for years 1897—1902	24,735	582	23.5	62	106	469	18.3	99	97	23	381	15.3
1903	24,300	562	23.1	48	85	441	18.1	125	114	28	355	14.6

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.
The figures for the years 1897-1900 are given as they have appeared in previous reports, but the average are corrected in accordance with the over estimation of the population.
Total population at all ages, 24,520. Number of inhabited houses, 5,650. Average number of persons per house, 4.3. At Census of 1901. Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 109,640.
*Institutions within the District receiving Sick and Infirm Persons from outside the District:—*Devon County Asylum, Starcross Idiot Asylum, City of Exeter Infectious Diseases Hospital. *Institutions outside the District receiving Sick and Infirm Persons from the District:—*S. Thomas Union Workhouse, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

TABLE II.

VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1903 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

S. THOMAS RURAL DISTRICT.

NAME OF LOCALITIES	1. CLYST.				2. EXE.				3. OTTER.				4. TEIGN.				5. TOPSHAM.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
YEAR.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1893																				
1894																				
1895																				
1896																				
1897	7750	204	109	24	9855	222	95	21	2835	66	39	7	3600	96	58	9	2850	63	46	10
1898	7800	198	110	17	9855	160	129	21	2835	54	55	10	3600	84	59	15	2850	62	38	3
1899	7800	182	110	25	9840	182	128	21	2820	43	51	4	3600	108	56	9	2840	71	66	11
1890	7800	177	110	14	9850	182	115	21	2820	51	53	5	3600	86	60	9	2840	64	51	5
1901	7634	174	135	33	8133	172	117	22	2447	64	45	5	3526	98	74	8	2780	63	51	9
1902	7620	180	112	17	8110	188	98	11	2400	48	27	4	3560	86	41	9	2780	55	34	8
Corrected Averages of Years 1897 to 1902.	7652	186	114	21	8191	184	114	19	2523	54	45	6	3555	93	58	10	2788	63	48	8
1903	7606	184	111	17	8087	169	104	16	2353	59	43	4	3474	91	41	4	2780	59	56	7

TABLE III.
S. THOMAS RURAL DISTRICT.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year, 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.					No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.					
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.											65 and up-wards.
Small-pox																	
Cholera																	
Diphtheria	4		2	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I					
Membranous croup																	
Erysipelas	8					2	2	3	2	I	2	26	4	5			2
Scarlet fever	59	2	14	36	3	4	35	8	14								
Typhus fever																	
Enteric fever	10		I	I	6	2	3	3		I	3	2	2		I		I
Relapsing fever																	
Continued fever																	
Puerperal fever																	
Plague																	
Totals	81	2	15	39	10	13	41	14	15	4	7	29	6	5	I		3

State the name of the isolation hospital, if any, used by the sick of the district. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district.—City of Exeter Sanatorium, at Pinhoe.

TABLE IV.
S. THOMAS RURAL DISTRICT.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

Causes of Death	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (At all Ages).					Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upw'rds	Clyst	Exe	Otter	Teign	Tops'm	
Small-pox ..													
Measles ..	9	3	6					9					
Scarlet fever ..	3			3				2		1			3
Whooping- cough ..	2		2					2					
Diphtheria and membranous croup ..	1		1								1		2
Croup ..													
Fever { Typhus													
{ Enteric	1				1				1				1
{ Other													
{ contin'd													
Epidemic influenza ..	8					1	7	1	3		2	2	3
Diarrhoea ..	4	2				1	1	1	2	1			
Enteritis ..	3				1	2		1	1			1	
Puerperal fever													
Erysipelas ..	1						1					1	
Other septic diseases ..	2				1		1	1				1	
Phthisis ..	27			1	3	22	1	5	15	4	1	2	13
Other tuber- cular diseases.	10	2	2	1	1	4		6	3		1		6
Cancer, malig- nant disease.	24					13	11	6	8	2	4	4	
Bronchitis ..	39	11	3			2	23	8	12	6	4	9	2
Pneumonia ..	19	4	3	1		7	4	6	10	2	1		9
Pleurisy ..	4			2	1	1		1	2			1	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs. ..													
Alcoholism ..	3												
Cirrhosis of liver						1	2	1				2	1
Premature birth	12	12						4	5		1	2	
Diseases and accidents of parturition.	3	3							2			1	
Heart diseases	48				2	16	30	19	7	5	9	8	11
Accidents ..	10			2		6	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Suicides ..	4					3	1	2		1		1	
Old age ..	34						34	12	9	8	3	2	20
Diseases of nervous system	39		1	2	1	16	19	9	14	3	5	8	43
Convulsions ..	5	4	1					1	1	3	1		
Kidney Diseases	2						2	1			1		5
All other causes	38	7		1	2	11	17	12	7	5	5	9	6
All causes ..	355	48	19	13	13	106	156	111	104	43	41	56	125

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables,
MARK FARRANT, Medical Officer of Health. January, 1904.